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THE REA LINEMAN

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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St. Louis, Mo.

"SAFETY IS SERIOUS BUSINESS"

A story of a near-tragedy with a moral on safety is told in a recent issue of "North Shore Volts and Jolts," newsletter of the Cooperative Light and Power Association at Two Harbors, Minnesota. The article to which a full page is devoted is headed "Safety is Serious Business."

The wife of a member was giving the cows in the barn their noon feeding when she received a jolt that knocked her unconscious. Fortunately she quickly recovered.

An examination of the barn revealed the following: Two wires led down from the ceiling to a point a yard from the floor, where they entered a short piece of conduit extending through the wall to the adjoining room. The conduit protruded from the wall so that it was frequently bumped in passing and farm tools leaning against the conduit rubbed against the wires gradually destroying the insulation.

On this particular day, the bare wire evidently came in to contact with the conduit. And as usual this time of the year, the barn walls were frosty and wet, forming an excellent conductor. When the conduit became charged, the wet walls also became charged. In addition a water pipe ran overhead and down to a drinking cup before each cow. Here was a perfect ground. The woman evidently touched the wall and the drinking cup, or water pipe, at the same time,

SYSTEMS SET RECORD FOR SAFETY

Rural power is now more busily employed than ever before. It is helping to produce more food for victory, is playing a larger part in processing more food, and is also serving military establishments and factories. This record food accomplishment is paralleled by the safety records currently being hung up by the REA systems.

On March 1, the 800 rural electric cooperatives broke all REA records for the number of days worked without an employee fatality. Not since October 21, 1942, had there been a fatal accident on REA lines—a period of 129 days without a fatality. This safety record has been won despite a shortage of skilled labor and despite the fact that new and relatively inexperienced employees on the systems are working under increased pressure.

The previous non-fatal accident record was established between March 18, 1939 and July 27, 1939 — a period of 128 days. But the REA then was much smaller than it is today.

The new record is proof that REA staff members, linemen, superintendents and board members, are enlisting in the conservation of manpower. Schools and Committees cooperating in the Safety and Job Training Program have given their time, energies and resources to organized safety. The joint safety efforts have developed facts on safety, arouse thought and discussion and have initiated educational, preventive and corrective procedures.

Continued cooperation and intensified effort, will result in the attainment of this year's objective — *NO FATALITY IN '43.*

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giving her the shock.

Recommendations? The damaged wires should be replaced. An elbow should be installed at the point where the wires entered and the conduit moved well above anyone's reach. An entrance switch should also be installed so that power could be turned off right in the barn.

The article concludes with the statement that quite often farmers install inferior equipment in the barn, and adds: "If certain material or equipment isn't good enough for use in the house, don't use it in the barn."

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SAVE MANPOWER FOR WARPOWER!

ASK RED CROSS FOR PREVENTION COURSE

Superintendents are urged to contact their local Red Cross chapter to inquire about organizing an accident prevention course. If the Red Cross chairman is without information on this program, see that he makes inquiry at the National Headquarters of the organization.

Completion of this accident prevention course should be a "must" for each member of your organization. Give the course full publicity in your monthly newsletter. It has special application in the home and on the farms.

Published monthly in the interest of Safety
for Employees of REA Systems

David A. Fleming, Editor

EXPERIENCE AND PRACTICE

A farmer was explaining to his new hired hand how he wanted his potatoes planted. The hired hand replied that he had been planting potatoes for 20 years, and in all his experience had never seen potatoes planted as the farmer wanted.

"Experience?" the farmer exploded. "You've never had experience. You've had practice."

The dictionary defines experience as "knowledge gained by trial and accomplishment." It defines practice as doing "something as a habit." We gain experience by trying new things, in ways that differ from our usual habits. It is the way to progress.

Experience in accident prevention is attained in the same manner. Things must be tried that differ from the usual practice. But where human life is concerned, different ways must be weighed carefully before they are tried. The outcome must be reasonably certain, or at least offer no greater hazard than the old method.

The REA Safety Unit selects safe practices that are effective against the accidents that occur most frequently. These practices may come from a lineman, a superintendent, another utility, or another safety organization. They may be practices that are new to you. They may even be contrary to what you think is a safe practice. But they work. They are practices which have proved themselves successful in many places.

Try the practices suggested by the Safety Unit. They will add to your experience *and your safety*.

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SAVINGS PAY FOR SAFETY PROGRAM

"The saving in insurance premiums more than pay for the expense of our Safety Program," says R. E. Rotnem, Superintendent of the Dunn County Electric Cooperative, at Menomonie, Wisconsin. Mr. Rotnem explained that his insurance rates were reduced because of his no-accident record. The Dunn County Co-op is a member of the Wisconsin REA Safety and Job Training Program, the National Safety Council, and the Chippewa Power Cooperative Safety Council. Safety meetings are held every week. All of our employees, continues Rotnem, are required to hold the Red Cross Standard First Aid card and we also make it mandatory for the employees to have a physical check-up at least once each year and get a report from the examining physician in regard to the employees physical condition.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

I received the copy of the REA LINEMAN for January, and I wish to thank you very much. I enjoy reading the paper, and have enjoyed it ever since I first became interested in electrical work. It certainly brings back memories of those days.

The safety news in the LINEMAN helps me more everyday as flying an airplane certainly is no place to get careless. All the fellows in my squadron enjoy reading it as much as I do, and if we all heed it as well as we read it, there will be a lot fewer mishaps. Again I want to thank you.

A/C Robt. R. Ward,
U.S.N.R. Class 1-B
U. S. Naval Air Station
Los Alamitos, Calif.

To the Editor:

Our three maintenance men use their rubber gloves on all live line pole work. They put the gloves on before they climb the pole. Each of them has expressed the opinion that it is much easier to put the gloves on before climbing the pole than it is after they have climbed it and have "safetied" themselves.

S. E. Roberts, Manager
Ozark Electric Co-Op.
Mount Vernon, Missouri

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Have all your bookkeepers been instructed to include the two items "Number of Accidents This Month" and "Total Hours Worked" in the yellow sheet of the Monthly Operating Report?

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Did you send REA a copy of that accident report you made out?

LINEMEN CAN HELP MEMBERS

You're busy—you're very busy these war days, but so is all America. We have a big job to do, the biggest job in our history, and the nation is woefully short in manpower, therefore it is doubly important today that we make every effort to conserve both manpower and materials.

You as employees at an REA Cooperative can help by urging members to attend safety meetings held on your system. You can help by asking your members to inspect their equipment regularly; ask them to tighten screws and see that heating elements remain securely fastened. If electrical parts are worn or broken, they should be repaired by a competent person immediately. Let them know that worn cords are dangerous; they should be replaced if possible, or else complete repairs should be made. Tell them not to tamper with fuses. Ask them to keep a supply of the proper rating on hand. If they are using electrical equipment in damp places or near water, urge them to take extra precautions; remind them that any appliances that can give a little shock, can give a big, deadly shock under certain conditions.

Show housewives how to have their washing machine frames grounded with a special grounding wire securely connected on each end. Point out to all of your members that appliances should be disconnected from the service outlet when not in use.

Our boys in uniform depend on us to keep them supplied with food, clothing, and the implements of war. Accidents which cut farm production may sacrifice lives. Safety methods will help us to secure victory.

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REPORT ALL ACCIDENTS TO REA

DISCUSSION CASE 43-3

The accident discussed here did not occur on REA lines but is not unlike those which do.

Investigating a service outage, a lineman and his helper found that lightning had burned the cutout riser in two, leaving about a foot of wire dangling on a dead end transformer pole.

The helper climbed the pole, placed his belt above the transformer, and made the repairs, using a hot stick and wearing rubber gloves. The lineman, directing the work from below, then went to check the service. He said later that he assumed the helper would keep the same position on the pole, and would not come down until he had been told the service was all right.

Meantime, however, the helper removed his rubber gloves and was removing his safety strap from around the pole when the snap lodged between the transformer and the pole. In reaching around to loosen the snap, his hand touched the hot jumper causing a slight burn on his thumb and three fingers and a small burn on his big left toe. He was fortunately able to break the contact and come down the pole.

The main cause of the accident was noted as "failure to use protective equipment." This is one more case where a practice of putting on rubber gloves before leaving the ground and not taking them off until after returning to the ground, would have prevented injury.

Perhaps the lineman figured it would be too much trouble to remove his safety belt, climb down the pole a few feet, put his safety around the pole again and then remove his rubber gloves before starting down again. We believe it is less of an inconvenience to climb down the pole with your gloves on your hands than it is to change positions and remove rubber gloves.

THEY COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED

1. A lineman was sent to get the catalog numbers of two of a set of three 3-shots which had been borrowed. He climbed the pole, and killed the middle phase wire, but failed to ground it. In moving around the pole to read a name plate, one of the fuse holders swung and touched him. He suffered burns on both arms and fell off the pole, with possible back injuries as a result.

2. A lineman and an assistant were re-fusing a 3-shot cutout on a single-phase line. The assistant climbed the pole and called for the universal stick. Although the lineman was thoroughly familiar with the rule requiring the use of hand lines when passing tools to a man on a pole, he threw the universal stick to him. The lineman sprained his back when throwing the stick, losing 30 days working time.

3. A frost-covered transformer being unloaded from a truck, slipped and tumbled down. A lineman's big right toe was fractured.

4. The big left toe of a groundman was bruised, when he dropped an extension ladder while taking it off a truck.

5. Loading poles on a truck, a groundman who had been hired only eleven days before, suffered a broken leg. One of the poles rolled off before it could be fastened.

6. A groundman was banking a pole when a barbed wire caught on it. In releasing the wire, a barb became embedded in his left thumb.

7. A lineman broke one of his toes when he dropped an iron beam on it.

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THE BURNS WERE ON THE HANDS

North Carolina is the latest state to join the safety and job training family. The program started with a state-wide meeting at Raleigh. The committee consists of the following board presidents, line foremen and managers: Board presidents, S. A. Holder, Dobson; U. R. Blalock, Wadesboro, Balfour Dunn, Enfield; Lineforeman, —Brown, Lenoir, —Patterson, Lexington, Homer Stanley, Burgaw; managers, Cecil Viverette, Asheboro, —Hubbard, Rich Square, D. B. Crowe, Forrest City.

Oklahoma is about ready to start a supervisor in the field. All but one of the cooperatives have sent their checks. The unaffiliated cooperative has indicated that it will join the program making 100 percent perfection after its next board meeting. Congratulations! Much of the credit goes to H. W. Powers and J. Perry Norris, of the Trades and Industrial Education Department and the Safety and Job Training Committee. The Committee consists of the following: Board presidents, T. H. Ketele, Walters; J. R. Qualls, Durant; and Ralph Weigle, board member, Blackwell; managers; Ed Cralle, Norman, Gerald Goodwin, Cordell, Howard G. Crocker, Cherokee; line foremen; Edwin Spoor, Seminole, Homer Shotts, Tipton, and Jack Steele, Kingfisher.

Ed Nauert, head instructor in Texas, writes that another life was saved by the practice of wearing rubber gloves from the ground up. A line crew was attempting to bank in two transformers, when the primary of the second transformer was energized through the secondary coils. C. L. Pierce and E. S. Reynolds are also instructors in Texas.

Ken Mostoller, Wisconsin Supervisor, keeps the program in the forefront in his state. He

ACCIDENT FREQUENCY ON REA SYSTEMS - 2nd MONTH

(Disabling injuries per 10,000 miles of energized lines)

REGION	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR	% INCR. OR DECR.
I	0.0	0.9	—xx
II	0.9	0.0	—xx
III	0.4	0.5	—20
IV	0.0	0.0	00
V	0.0	0.4	—xx
VI	0.0	0.0	00
VII	0.7	0.0	—xx
VIII	0.2	0.5	—60
IX	0.0	1.5	—xx
X	0.0	1.4	—xx
U.S.	0.2	0.5	—60

submitted a problem on his "red sheet" with a unique way of doing line work and asks our opinion.

Ben Snively with most of the line foremen in Illinois crossed the Mississippi to St. Louis, to attend a two-day meeting. Problems relating to design, construction and operation of overhead lines were discussed.

Lawrence C. Meyer accepted the position of Safety and Job Training Supervisor in Michigan.

Dean Horsewood accepted a similar position in Ohio, beginning the middle of this month. Mr. Horsewood is a new member of the supervisor family.

Slim Ehmsen is now supervisor in Kentucky.

Fred White, supervisor in Mississippi, is now in the Navy, Lieutenant j.g.

News is wanted from Iowa.

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MAKE THAT

LOST-TIME

ACCIDENT

A

LAST-TIME

ACCIDENT

LISTEN TO SAM - NOT JOE

Argumentative Joe says that donning rubber gloves while still on the ground is harmful because poleclimbing while wearing the mitts tends to puncture them and thus contributes to accidents.

Experience Sam says that to prevent BURNS ON THE HANDS it's ALWAYS safer to put the rubber gloves on before leaving the ground.

Records show that there is far less chance of getting a burn with a punctured rubber glove than there is from touching a live-wire barehanded.

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WHAT GOES WITH YOU

The benediction of your loved ones goes with you to your work each day...Therefore, resolve to be mindful of your obligation to them, your fellow man, your employer and yourself...to be watchful and alert to the hazards of each task whether old or new...to plan your work before you undertake it so that you may return safely and with a whole body to your folks at the end of the day...happy in the reward of a day dedicated not to toil but to service.

Sherwin-Williams Newslette

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What did you do today

TOWARD WINNING THE WA

ATTENTION, LINEMEN!

Help pass the word on care and safe use of electrical appliances to every member of the cooperative with which you are connected. Tell them that the REA in St. Louis has illustrated leaflets on the care and use of most household appliances available for free distribution. Ask them to write for them.

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